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February 2008 E-Newsletter

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please join us for a free pancake breakfast with your neighbors where we'll talk about your ideas about community and legislative issues! Here's the date, time, and place:

[Pancake Breakfast](#)

Saturday March 1, 2008

8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Southside Senior Center, Multi-Purpose Room

5585 Cottle Road

San Jose, CA 95123

RSVP appreciated: (408) 282-8920

[Select Committee On Drug
And Alcohol Meeting](#)

[Agnews Developmental
Center Update](#)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL MEETING

[PG&E Discounts For Low-
Or Fixed-Income
Customers](#)

[Save Me A Spot In College](#)

Please join Assemblymember Jim Beall, Jr., and Members of the Assembly Select Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse on March 6 for an informational hearing.

Select Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Hearing

Optimizing Revenue for

Drug and Alcohol Programs in California

Thursday, March 6, 2008

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

(Immediately Following Assembly Floor Session)

State Capitol, RM 126

Sacramento, CA

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Suite 300
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AGNEWS DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER UPDATE

On Feb. 1, Assemblymember Sally Lieber and I held a community meeting for the families of Agnews Developmental Center residents. Agnews serves a wide range of residents - some with life-threatening medical complications who need constant monitoring to others with mild developmental disabilities. Many residents require oxygen and feeding tubes. About 180 residents still live at Agnews and need to be placed in the community.

Agnews is scheduled to close in June of this year. The closing is a result of a national movement aimed at improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities. Many experts believe the developmentally disabled can thrive within community settings rather than being sequestered in institutions. The closure process began under former Gov. Gray Davis and has been continued by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

At the meeting, family members and former Agnew's staff raised several legitimate concerns about the process for safely relocating residents, lack of construction oversight, emergency plans at the new facilities and staffing issues. Many expressed frustration that there was no clear contingency plan for Agnews residents who are not placed by the June deadline. Like you, ensuring the safe transition of Agnews residents into appropriate homes in the community is of the utmost importance to me.

I am committed to making this process consumer-driven and not driven by the calendar. As Chair of the Health and Human Service Committee, my utmost goal is the safety and well being of people at Agnews and in the community. We will not sacrifice the safety of individuals for the sake of expediency. I will continue to monitor the closure process and ensure all the necessary steps are being taken.

If you have any questions regarding the closure of Agnews, please contact my staff member Frances Grammer at frances.grammer@asm.ca.gov.

PG&E DISCOUNTS FOR LOW- OR FIXED-INCOME CUSTOMERS

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) is offering 20 percent monthly discounts on energy bills to qualifying customers on fixed- or low-incomes through its California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program. The annual savings through CARE per household average more than \$400. Check the table below to see if you qualify. Your household's gross annual income may not exceed the listed amounts.

<u>Persons in Household</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>
1 or 2	\$29,300
3	\$34,400
4	\$41,500
5	\$48,600
6	\$55,700
7	\$62,800
8	\$69,900
9	\$77,000
10	\$84,100

Chart Source: PG&E

If there are more people, add an additional \$7,100 for each person.

For more information phone 1-866-PGE-CARE or visit PG&E's website, www.pge.com/care.

SAVE ME A SPOT IN COLLEGE

Campaign for College Opportunity, a non-profit organized devoted to getting students enrolled in colleges, is sponsoring a contest for California students in grades 6 to 12. One hundred winners will be awarded college scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. More than \$100,000 in scholarships will be given out statewide.

The contest calls for students to either respond in an essay, drawing a poster, or producing a television advertisement that addresses this question: Why should California leaders save me and my peers a spot in college?

Contestants may submit one entry per category. The deadline to submit entries is March 15.

To learn more about the contest, register, become a contest partner, schedule a classroom presentation, or volunteer as a judge visit www.collegecampaign.org/contest or call 1-800-459-9586 and ask for Stephanie Romero-Crockett.